



## **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

*Week ending April 25, 2008*

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **15th Annual Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference**

April 28–29, 2008 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine

FMI: [http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008\\_Conference\\_Registration\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.mrra.net/admin/assets/2008_Conference_Registration_Flyer.pdf)

#### **Energy Resource Council Meeting**

May 6, 2008 – 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM *Cabinet Room, Capitol Building, Augusta, Maine*

CONTACT: Donna Bradstreet at 287–5649 or [donna.bradstreet@maine.gov](mailto:donna.bradstreet@maine.gov)

#### **Governor's Council on Maine's Quality of Place**

May 6, 2008, 12:00 noon, Cabinet Room, State Capitol, Augusta

Meeting and press event with the Governor

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### **DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**Legislative wrap-up.** The State Planning Office was assigned a number of tasks during the Second Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature. Here are some highlights:

1. Make recommendations to clarify the requirements for municipalities to qualify for the exemption provision of Maine's Informed Growth Act (LD 1962, by letter of request)

2. Provide training and certification of building inspectors under Maine's Uniform Building and Energy Code (LD 2257)
3. Clarify and expand the contents of the Office's waste disposal capacity report (LD 810, PL 2007, Ch. 583)
4. Authorize final adoption of Chapter 220, the Office's major substantive rule for identifying regional service centers (LD 2250, Resolve 205)
5. Promulgate rules to determine the methodology for conducting inventories of scenic resources of state or national significance in coastal areas to help guide wind power development (LD 2283, PL 2007, Ch 661)

**CONTACT:** John Del Vecchio at 287-8058 or [john.delvecchio@maine.gov](mailto:john.delvecchio@maine.gov)

**Regulatory Fairness Board submits annual report.** The Regulatory Fairness Board submitted its annual report to the Legislature's Business, Research, and Economic Development Committee pursuant to 5 MRSA §57. The Legislature created the board in 2005 to report to the Legislature and the Governor on regulatory and statutory changes necessary to enhance the State's business climate. The board meets in different regions of the state to hear testimony from businesses regarding their concerns about enforcement activities of state departments and agencies. The board did not make any new recommendations in its 2007 annual report, but continues to monitor activities related to its 2006 recommendations. New this year, the Office created a Web site for the board including an on-line complaint form. Businesses may now submit any concerns and comments to the board via the Internet. To view the Web site: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/boards/regulatoryfairness/index.htm>. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov)

**Amy Cole-Ives departs.** Amy Cole-Ives, who has worked in a project position since July staffing the state's building code implementation plan project (PL 2007, Resolve 46), has completed her work and leaves SPO on April 25. The implementation plan led to LD 2257, *An Act to Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code*, which was enacted by the Legislature this session. Amy staffed the interagency building code committee, researched technical issues, and helped draft the implementation plan and accompanying legislation. Amy leaves to run her own consulting business. **CONTACT:** Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Hank Tyler retires.** With 34 years of state service, Hank Tyler will retire from the State Planning Office effective April 25, 2008. Hank has been instrumental in increasing the



accuracy of state solid waste data, working persistently with towns and regions to complete their annual solid waste reports. These data are used to determine the statewide recycling rate and disposal capacity projections. Hank has been with SPO's waste management and recycling program since 1999. Before that he was staff to Governor King's Great Pond Task Force, which developed a strategic management plan to address a number of critical issues facing Maine's Great Ponds including the use of "jet-skis," public access, and declining water quality.

From 1974 to 1994, Hank managed the state's Critical Areas Program (the precursor to today's Natural Areas Program) where he helped document significant botanical, zoological, ecological, geological, and scenic natural areas for listing on the State's Register of Critical Areas. During Hank's time there, Maine's endangered plant law and the official listing of endangered plants were established. Also, during his tenure, Hank helped identify and confirm the location of the Furbish lousewort (see accompanying photo). The plant, a small member of the snapdragon family that grows only along the St. John River, halted the billion-dollar, Dickey-Lincoln hydroelectric project.

Hank, who lives in Hallowell and is well known internationally as a wood sculptor of birds, will become the environmental steward for Vaughn Woods. **CONTACT: George MacDonald at 287-5759 or [george.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:george.macdonald@maine.gov)**

**SPO participates in Hope Festival.** The University of Maine hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Hope Festival at its Orono campus on April 19. HOPE stands for "Help Organize Peace Worldwide." SPO participated in the festival's green expo, which showcased nonprofit and area business activities, products, and services to promote sustainable living, to highlight its *Maine Recycles* campaign. Campus organizers were eager to distribute *Maine Recycles* promotional materials in dorms and local businesses. The festival attracted hundreds to its educational booths, children's programs, live music and dance performances, and a 5K Fun Run. **CONTACT: Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or [jetta.antonakos@maine.gov](mailto:jetta.antonakos@maine.gov)**

## **LAND USE PLANNING**

**CPAC submits annual report.** The Community Preservation Advisory Committee submitted its annual report to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee pursuant to 30-A MRSA §4350. The Legislature created the committee in 2002 to advise the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies on matters relating to community

preservation. The report includes major issues, bills taken up, and other topics addressed by CPAC in 2007 and an overview of upcoming Issues for 2008. To view the report: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/boards/communitypreservation/index.htm>.

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### **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Rochelle Runge joins commission staff.** Rochelle Runge started her duties as the public relations representative for the Maine Commission for Community Service this week. Originally from the Thomaston area, she has a BA in psychology with a business minor from the University of Southern Maine. Previously, she worked in marketing at a software company and ran a volunteer program with over 3,000 volunteers at Fort Drum in upstate New York. She lives with her husband in Warren. Rochelle fills the position vacated by Kim Goding. She will work to build awareness of the commission's programs, events, and resources including writing news releases and reports and maintaining the web site. She will organize commission events and activities, perform background research for articles and publications, and respond to inquiries from the media and others. Welcome, Rochelle! **CONTACT: Maryalice Crofton at 287-8931 or [service.commission@maine.gov](mailto:service.commission@maine.gov)**